

Tuesday Evening, March 2, 1883.

PLenty OF MANURE WITHOUT MUCH STOCK.

EIS, COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—Some time since your Western Reserve correspondent (*J. G.*) writing about a visit to my farm, said that beyond one cow and the farm teams, there were no signs of animal life. This has been quoted in an Ohio paper to help prove that I have "gone back on manure."

Now what is manure? My dictionary says: "Anything that fertilizes land." The hay, straw, fodder, grain, &c., raised on the farm, and fed to stock; they take a portion of the valuable elements contained in this feed; the remainder, which they cannot digest or do not need, is called stable manure, and is the kind of manure that is meant I have "gone back on." Now does not the clever farmer, who plows under a crop, manure the land just as truly as does he who first seeds the hay to stock, and then returns the stable manure to the soil?

It is often said of the clever farmer: "Oh, he makes a living from one pocket to put into the other"—from the soil to put back into the soil again. Is not almost all our animal manure made of plants of the soil? What is the difference, as far as manure is concerned, whether one plows under a crop of clover or fertilizes for a potato or wheat crop, or feels out the clover to stock, and plows under the stable manure? What difference there is, in favor of the former course, for then the crop gets all the manure value of the clover, as the stock have not taken a part, and none has been wasted in handling.

When I was a boy, I learned at school that a part can never equal the whole. So the manure from a ton of clover fed out can never equal in value the clover itself properly plowed under. I think few of your readers will differ with me on this point. (I am leaving out of the question, now, whether or not it is wiser to let out the hay, and get the feed value, as well as most of the manural value, as this is not important to the subject I am writing on.) Some 15 years ago I bought a pile of manure of a man who used hay for bedding, quite freely, paid fifty cents a load. A farmer met me on the road, when I was drawing the manure home, and said: "What in the world do you buy such manure for? It is almost all hay. I would not draw it home for it." I told him I had as soon have a load, by weight, of hay to put on my land as manure—that I did not think the hay gained anything by going through the cattle.

"Oh," says he, "that is your book nonsense. You will learn better after you have farmed it a few years." And he passed on with a knowing wink. Your readers are too intelligent to think as this farmer did, and no doubt now do, as this takes no paper, and reads no book, for me to say more in its own opinion, to leave nothing out.

Again, I dislike to say it, but I honestly believe that more than half of the liquid and solid stable manure, or excrement from stock, is wasted, in Ohio, in one way or another. Loyal soldiers, over-not manure heaps, eat'th in fence corners, and then, or going a long way to water in winter, lie down on steep hillsides, barns close to creek, and a dozen other careless things which one cannot help but see, if he goes around much in the winter—go to prove that.

When clover is plowed under, all these losses are avoided. To assure them can be avoided, and I am not urging the plowing under of clover particularly, only trying to show that it is just as truly manuring as though it were fed to stock, and that a man has no necessary "going back on manure," because there is not much stock on his place, and that whatever may be said of the practice, all leakages are thereby avoided.

If I choose to use some 10 tons of straw to bed my horses during the year, as I have during the past year, instead of feeding it out, and then draw it on my land, and plow it under, it is not just as truly manuring. If I choose to let some clover grow, take out the seed, and plow under the haulm, is it not manuring? The clover may fall to the horses and cow will be all right, of course, as that makes stable manure. It has been said also that I have gone back on manure, because of the statement made in your columns once, that five-sixths of my cultivated land was in potatoes and wheat, which crops were mostly sold off the farm, except the straw. Five-sixths of my cultivated land was in potatoes, and wheat, this year. There were 18 acres of potatoes, 12 of wheat, and 6 of clover.

Now let us see just how this matter really figures up, and how much manure or plant food will be left out this year. There were certainly 12 tons of clover hay (very little timothy, in this year) on the 6 acres of meadow at the first cutting. The second crop was allowed to get ripe for seed, as seed promised to pay better than hay. There were 11 loads of it, and the seed will take out a little of the value, but I think we may safely call the manural value of the haulm, plowed under, as equal to that of 12 tons of hay fed out. I have been surprised at the good results where this clever straw has been plowed under for potatoes.

The 12 acres wheat yields perhaps 20 tons of straw. A part of that will be used for bedding, and the rest, probably, fed out with 3 or 4 tons of wheat bran and oil meal; if I can get any stock so as to make anything at it. Feed is very plenty this season, and cattle will, therefore, go at high as this fall as next spring, but I may be able to pick up something that will do to feed. Last winter feed was scarce, and there was money to be made feeding straw and grain. The wheat field is now a clover field: 6 acres have been cut for hay, yielding 18 large loads. The clover on the other 6 acres will be plowed up. I am putting it lower than the truth, according to my judgment, when I say that the hay on the 12 acres would weigh, if it had been cured, 30 tons.

For convenience, I will figure the value of the 15 tons of clover plowed under, the same as though it had been fed out, and the straw used for bedding the same way. This will certainly make up any loss from manure left on the road by horses. We have then the manure made from the feeding of 51 tons of hay and 20 tons of straw and 3 or 4 tons of wheat fed, probably.

According to tables before me in a standard work, this manure would be worth, raising the ingredients as what they cost in commercial fertilizers, more than \$200. The manure made from the potatoes, which were sold off the farm this year, if they had been fed out, deducting the manural value of 4 tons of bran and oil meal brought in, would be about \$83, on a basis of commercial manure prices. It is allowed, I think, by all, that some 10 pounds of nitrogen comes from the atmosphere each year (each acre), deducted this and the \$83 is reduced to about \$10. What a crop of potatoes as usual, it would be some more, of course, but the manural value of potatoes is not very great, only \$1.50 for it, because of their low value.

Each ton fed out, according to my tables. There are perhaps but few farms as small as mine, where my money is made, that can make a much better showing than this, even if I keep only my team and one cow as "regular stock." Then I do not feel at all sure that clover does not get more nitrogen from the atmosphere than is generally acknowledged.

Prof. Atwater, it seems from his interesting articles, is of much the same mind. It is not perfectly certain, then, that I have diminished the fertility in my soil even the very small amount that my figures would indicate.

I hope this will show that I have not "gone back on manure," unless manure is defined as narrowly as to mean only from animals, even if I do not keep much "regular stock."

If I had made all that clover buy, by feeding it out the straw—"then" could I have wintered it stock and made quite a bit of manure. Then this animal manure would have been perfect had I wanted it, and yet I called me "good fellow," for good reasons, I do this, but, as far as the world, do about as we then, that I have "gone manure." It is to be hoped that clover is just as it would be under as it is if it were not involved under mud that it can be tilled, and then returns the stable manure to the soil?

It is often said of the clever farmer:



RED STAR TRADE MARK.

Gettysburg Compiler.

Tuesday Evening, March 9, 1866.

TOWN AND COUNTY.

THE SPRING SALES.

To advertise a Sale in the COMPILER is sure to make it a good one. Try it and be convinced. Our large circulation places the paper in fully two thousand homes, and carries every week to all its readers the name, day and place, with amount and kind of articles to be sold, and this with our show bills at prominent places is certain to give a Sale such publicity as must make the attendance large and the bidding spirited, both of which are necessary to a really successful Sale. All who intend making Sales in this and adjoining towns would reap a large interest by using our advertising space, and the old rate, 5 mills, was fixed with the usual 11 mills for paying off bills.

The G. & H. B. R. took out twenty-three western passengers to-day in a coach, and carried them through to Chicago. Next Tuesday they will have ours through to St. Louis.

A fruitless attempt was made to enter the residence through a window of the Misses McPherson, on East Middle street, whilst the ladies were absent attending a lecture.

CHURCH OF THE PRINCIPAL PRACTICE.—Rev. Chas. H. Vandyke, Services Ash Wednesday 10:30 A. M.; Friday 4 P. M.; Saturday 10:30 A. M. & 4 P. M.; Seats free.

TOWN COUNCIL.—To the Council organized on Tuesday evening by electing J. Emory Hurl but president, J. W. Kendall, first vice-president, and J. W. Kendal, last treasurer. The proposition to increase the tax rate to 60 mills met with the favor of the old rate, 5 mills, was fixed with the usual 11 mills for paying off bills.

George W. Myres and Robert Rapp were re-appointed, collector, G. B. Shields, land-lender, and John Calp. M., superintendent of street work, under direction of the committee—F. S. Baird, C. H. Mingo and Calvin Smith.

Chas. H. Confort's plan for the new engine house was approved and post-will be invited to an early day.

The new bridge over the Susquehanna was completed with a depth of 55 feet, with two tracks for the machinery and a lobby for the women on the first floor.

The second door will be occupied by a fire-engine and chamber for the women, and the third door by a pump-room.

March 11, Thursday—Jacob Bandy, Butcher township.

March 11, Thursday—Gen. J. Mertz, Franklin township.

March 12, Friday—Edward Shaffer, Roaring township.

March 12, Friday—J. J. Smith, Strasburg township.

March 12, Friday—Samuel Turner, Franklin township.

March 12, Friday—E. C. Stover, Gettysburg.

March 12, Friday—Amos Miller, Mcallen township.

March 12, Friday—John H. Miller, Franklin township.

March 12, Friday—J. C. Swartz, Strasburg township.

March 12, Friday—Jacob Bandy, Butcher township.

March 12, Friday—John H. Jacobs, Franklin township.

March 12, Friday—Wm. C. Butler, Franklin township.

March 12, Friday—J. J. Smith, Strasburg township.

March 12, Friday—J. W. Weaver, Franklin township.

March 12, Friday—Samuel T. Stoltz, Franklin township.

March 12, Friday—John H. Miller, Franklin township.

Tuesday Evening, March 9, 1866.

EXPERIMENTS WITH SEED CORN.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMEN.—The majority of farmers in settling their soil and preparing to plant in the spring, generally discard the top and bottom strata. This is done under the impression that there is some unknown reason, not as good as the rest of the earth.

Three years ago Dr. Shantz, director of the New York Experiment Station, called attention to this fact, gave the result of his experiments, and asked farmers generally to test the matter as fully as possible, and see just what difference there would be. Along with others, I tested it, the first year setting out one hundred grains from each portion of the ear, and planting them by themselves, giving, as nearly as possible, the same kind of soil and cultivation. The first year the difference in the yield was no greater than would naturally occur in three different plots of corn. There was some difference, however, in the ripening, the corn that was planted from the tips ripening first, and that from the butt last.

I have kept up the same experiments for three successive years, believing that the first trial was hardly sufficient to fairly test the matter. As a result of three years' testing as fairly as I could, I can but confirm the first year's test. I have used the same kind of corn—Plant's Profile, and this year planted in addition a plot with Southern Pride, with the same result. The seed was of my own selection, having had the same kind of corn ever since it was sent out, six or seven years ago. I selected only the very best each year, with the idea of at least keeping it up to the standard. The corn from the tips of the ears will ripen first, from the middle next, and that from the butt last. From experiments extending over thirty years, I have come to the conclusion that if it is desired to secure an early-ripening corn, it should be done by selecting the top grains for seed.

I have always been very careful in the selection of seed corn, taking pains in the fall to select only the very best, and securing it before there was even a chance of its being injured by frost. This plan I have always found to be a profitable one, and followed up closely, will keep up the quality of the corn. It is well known for the purpose of securing a better grade of seed that the experiments were made, but simply to see what difference there would be in the yield, the quality and the time of maturing. S. J. M'Kee, County, Mo.

SOME CAUSES OF BAD FLOUR.

The general belief among the masses of people today is that millets are to blame altogether for so much bad flour. But those who have given the subject their careful attention find that millets, taken out of every tea, are the chief causes themselves; and we frequently hear the remark, that flour is as bad now as it was fifteen or twenty years ago.

I, too, agree that there is a certain extent; but, while the cause of this inferior flour is, first, to take out of the grain, the quality and time of maturing.

S. J. M'KEE.—The following is suggested on the "Health & Household" page of this paper for the purpose of securing a better grade of seed corn. The experiments were made, but simply to see what difference there would be in the yield, the quality and the time of maturing. S. J. M'Kee, County, Mo.

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PATRONIZE home merchants in preference to any traveling cheap John peddlers who go about the country peddling to sell better goods for less money. Those fellows are only taking the money out of town, while your home merchant, who has to support schools, churchs and other home enterprises, will not be far from you.

CONSUMPTION.

A young woman of Boston, who, to the best of our knowledge, is the only one of her age in the country, has fallen ill.

AND AS A REMEDY FOR CONSUMPTION, ANTI-SYPHILITIC, ANALYTIC, THERAPEUTIC, DIURISATIC, ANTIDIARRHOEAL, DIURETIC, DIURISATIC, AND THORACIC EXFECTIVE, and all WANTING DISORDERS OF CHILDREN IT IS INVALUABLE IN ITS USE.

FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

DOWNS' Elixir.

N. H. DOWNS' Vegetable Balsamic Elixer.

ELIXIR

This valuable fluid is truly vegetable in its composition, and is equal to any of the best elixirs.

It is a safe, healthy, nutritious, and easily digestible medicine.

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